

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~security system of~~apparatus as  
claimed in claim 122, wherein:

the verifier ~~is configured to determine~~determines the  
authorization based on a verification of a presence of an entirety  
5 of a data set corresponding to the protected material.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~security system of~~apparatus as  
claimed in claim 122, wherein:

~~the gate is further configured to store~~said storing means  
stores the damaged version on a removable media.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~security system of~~apparatus as  
claimed in claim 122, wherein:

~~the gate is further configured to~~  
~~store~~said storing means stores the damaged version in a  
5 temporary storage device, and  
~~store~~stores the repaired version in a permanent storage  
device.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~security system of~~apparatus as  
claimed in claim 22, wherein:

~~the gate comprises:~~

~~a damager that is configured to damage~~damaging means  
5 damages a select portion of the protected material to form the  
damaged version, and

~~a repairer that is configured to repair~~the repairing  
means repairs a corresponding select portion of the damaged version  
to form the repaired version.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~security system of~~apparatus as  
claimed in claim 5, wherein the apparatus further comprises:

~~the gate is configured to disable the damager~~means for  
disabling the damaging means in order to prevent subsequent damage  
5 to the protected material, after the verifier determines the  
authorization.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~security system of~~apparatus as  
claimed in claim 5, wherein

~~the damager includes~~damaging means comprises:

~~a first device that is configured to damage~~for damaging  
5 the select portion of the protected material via an exclusive-or  
function with a key, and

~~the repairer includes~~repairing means comprises:

a second device ~~that is configured to repair~~for repairing  
the select portion of the protected material via an exclusive-or  
10 function with the key.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~security system of~~apparatus as  
claimed in claim 7, wherein

the key is provided via a random process.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~security system of~~apparatus as  
claimed in claim 8, wherein

the key includes a series of random numbers that are  
provided via a pseudo-random process based on a key-seed.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~security system of~~apparatus as  
claimed in claim 7, wherein

the key is destroyed if the verifier fails to determine  
the authorization.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~security system of~~apparatus as  
claimed in claim 122, wherein said apparatus further comprises:

~~the gate is further configured to~~

~~provide an undamaged version of the protected~~  
5 ~~material~~means for rendering the protected material while the  
verifier is determining the authorization.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of protecting protected material comprising the steps of:

receiving the protected material;

generating a damaged version of the protected material;

5       determining an authorization to process the protected material, ~~and;~~

storing a ~~the~~ damaged version of the protected material while determining the authorization, ~~;~~ and

10       repairing the damaged version of the protected material to form a repaired version of the protected material after determining the authorization.

13. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ as claimed in claim 12, wherein

5       the determining the authorization step is based on a verification of a presence of an entirety of a data set corresponding to the protected material.

14. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ as claimed in claim 12, wherein

the storing the damaged version step includes storing the damaged version on a removable media.

15. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ as claimed in claim 12,  
wherein

the storing the damaged material-version step includes  
storing the damaged version in a temporary storage device, and

5 wherein the method further ~~includes~~ comprises the step of:  
storing the repaired version in a permanent storage  
device.

16. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ as claimed in claim 12,  
~~further including~~ wherein:

said generating steps comprises damaging a select portion  
of the protected material to form the damaged version, and wherein

5 said step of repairing the damaged version comprises  
repairing a corresponding select portion of the damaged version to  
form the repaired version.

17. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ as claimed in claim 16,  
wherein

said step of damaging a select portion of the protected  
material includes ~~an~~ performing an exclusive-or ~~of~~ operation on the  
5 select portion with a key, and

step of repairing the damaged version includes performing  
an exclusive-or ~~of~~ operation on the corresponding select portion  
with the key.

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18. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ as claimed in claim 17,  
~~further including wherein said method further comprises the step of:~~  
generating the key via a random process.

19. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ as claimed in claim 18,  
wherein

the step of generating the key includes generating a  
series of random numbers via a pseudo-random process based on a  
5 key-seed.

20. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ as claimed in claim 17,  
~~further including wherein said method further comprises the step of:~~  
destroying the key if a failure is reported in determining  
the authorization.

21. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ as claimed in claim 12,  
~~further including wherein said method further comprises the step of:~~  
providing an undamaged version of the protected material  
for rendering while determining the authorization.

22. (New) An apparatus for storing protected material, said  
apparatus comprising:  
means for receiving protected material;

means for generating a damaged version of said protected  
5 material;

means for storing said damaged version of said protected  
material;

a verifier for determining an authorization to process  
said protected material; and

10 means for repairing the damaged version of said protected  
material in response to said verifier determining the  
authorization.